

Even as the world marks this solemn anniversary, we read ongoing reports of the crisis in Darfur, Sudan—a crisis that our President and this Congress has called a genocide. Once more, we confront a reality that exposes the inadequacy of our pledges of “never again.” And many will seize the anniversary of the Rwandan tragedy to rally support for more effective action in Darfur, where the international response has too often been sluggish and inadequate.

In the case of Darfur, the United States has spoken boldly. Our humanitarian response, though slow to gear up, is significant and commendable. The efforts of the African Union are laudable. But the bottom line is that neither the African Union nor the U.S. has taken effective action to protect the people of Darfur. While last week the United Nations Security Council made some progress on Darfur, much more remains to be done, and I do not believe that the United States has exerted adequate diplomatic and political effort on behalf of the people of Darfur. We ought to be able to do more—to be more forceful, more focused, more innovative, and more persuasive—to stop genocide.

So I applaud those who will work to refocus American attention on Darfur today, and I stand with them in their urgent call for a more effective response. But today, of all days, we must not forget Rwanda. We cannot pretend that Rwanda's struggles are simply in the past, or that the country exists simply to serve as a cautionary tale. The people of Rwanda still struggle today with efforts to rebuild their country, with the devastating HIV/AIDS pandemic, with the need for justice and accountability, and broadly, with fear. And though it is true that even the most conscientious policy will never erase the failures of the past, it is also true that we only compound our mistakes when we ignore the realities of Rwanda today.

Frankly, some of these realities are deeply disturbing. Crushing poverty characterizes the economic situation of far too many Rwandans, and serious repression is a dominant feature of the country's political life. The most recent State Department Human Rights Report on Rwanda cites instances of political disappearances, arbitrary arrest of opposition supporters, and harassment of independent journalists. According to the report, last year the government of Rwanda “effectively dismantled independent human rights organizations” and the Government declined to use its considerable influence with the RCD-G faction in Eastern Congo to effectively curtail that group's practice of killing, raping, and robbing the people of Eastern Congo on a massive scale.

Of course the government of Rwanda and the Rwandan people value order and are extremely sensitive to ethnically divisive forces. Rwanda remains a traumatized society. But not

all dissent is dangerous or divisive, and history teaches us that imposing order alone is not enough to guarantee stability and security. Over the long run, suppression and intimidation can undermine security rather than protecting it, forcing healthy debates into illicit channels, and casting doubt on the legitimacy of the prevailing order. We fail to be true friends to the people of Rwanda when we fail to be honest about these issues, and to raise our voices in support of the civil and political rights of the Rwandan people.

As we remember the past today, we should resolve to pay close attention to the present. The people of Rwanda deserve more than our regret. They deserve our support for their efforts to build a more just, more free, and more secure future.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Evans, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 3:14 p.m., a message from the House, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 34. Concurrent resolution honoring the life and contributions of Yogi Bajan, a leader of Sikhs, and expressing condolences to the Sikh community on his passing.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 3. An act to authorize funds for Federal-aid highways, highway safety programs, and transit programs, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-1492. A communication from the Acting Administrator, Food Safety and Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Addition of Slovakia to the List of Countries Eligible to Export Meat

Products to the United States” (Docket No. 99-018F) received on March 18, 2005; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1493. A communication from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of Policy, Economics, and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Thiophanate-methyl; Pesticide Tolerances for Emergency Exemptions” (FRL No. 7699-3) received on March 24, 2005; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1494. A communication from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of Policy, Economics, and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Mesotrione; Pesticide Tolerance” (FRL No. 7703-1) received on March 24, 2005; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1495. A communication from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of Policy, Economics, and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Dinotefuran; Pesticide Tolerance” (FRL No. 7695-5) received on March 24, 2005; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1496. A communication from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of Policy, Economics, and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “*Bacillus thuringiensis* Modified Cry3A Protein (mCry3A) and the Genetic Material Necessary for its Production in Corn; temporary Exemption From the Requirement of a Tolerance” (FRL No. 7704-4) received on April 4, 2005; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1497. A communication from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Agricultural Bioterrorism Protection Act of 2002; Possession, Use, and Transfer of Biological Agents and Toxins” (RIN0579-AB47) received on March 24, 2005; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1498. A communication from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Classical Swine Fever Status of Mexican States of Campeche, Quintana Roo, Sonora, and Yucatan” (APHIS Docket No. 02-002-2) received on March 28, 2005; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1499. A communication from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Karnal Bunt; Regulated Areas” (APHIS Docket No. 04-118-1) received on March 28, 2005; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1500. A communication from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Commuted Travel Time” (APHIS Docket No. 04-108-1) received on March 28, 2005; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1501. A communication from the Acting Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Marketing Order Regulating the Handling of Spearmint Oil Produced in the Far West; Salable Quantities and Allotment Percentages for the 2005-2006 Marketing Year”